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- (1) a cathode comprising an elongated cathode current collector having a second connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the cathode current collector having a third length, the third length shorter than the first length by an amount that enables the end segment of the anode assembly to be wound into the outermost layer of the coil, and a cathode material bonded to the cathode current collector; and
- (2) a second layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the cathode to encase the cathode therein and through which the first connector tab extends,

whereby two layers of separator material separate the anode and cathode when wound into the coil of the electrode assembly.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 11, 28-35, 37-44, 46-53 55-61 92-94 and 98-101 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13-17 and 95-97 are pending and under consideration.

II. Rejections under 35 USC §103

The remaining pending claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13-17 and 95-97 stand rejected under §103(a) based upon U.S. Patent No. 5,008,165 to Schmode ('165), U.S. Patent No. 4,539,271 to Crabtree ('271) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,830,940 to Keister et al. ('940).

Neither the '165 patent, the '271 patent, or the '940 patent, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the anode current collector being shorter in length than the elongated strip of alkali metal, as set forth in the claims of the present application. Accordingly, there are no teachings of the present invention in the prior art and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

III. Reference to Marked-up Version of Changes

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

IV. Conclusion

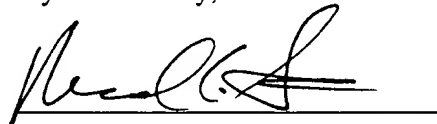
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Howard,
By his attorney,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 2, 11, 28-35, 37-44, 46-53 55-61 92-94 and 98-101 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended as follows:

1. (Five Times Amended) An electrode assembly for an electrochemical cell of the type comprising an elongated anode assembly and an elongated cathode assembly wound unidirectionally in side-by-side relation into a coil comprising a plurality of alternating anode and cathode assembly layers built up from an innermost layer through inner layers to an outermost layer such that the outermost layer of the coil comprises an end segment of one of the anode assembly or the cathode assembly wherein:

(a) the anode assembly comprises:

- (1) an anode comprising an elongated strip of alkali metal and an anode current collector having at least a first connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the elongated strip of alkali metal having a first length and the anode current collector having a second length, the second length of the anode current collector being shorter than the first length of the elongated strip of alkali metal; and
- (2) a first layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the anode to encase the anode therein and through which the first connector tab extends; and

(b) the cathode assembly comprises:

- (1) a cathode comprising an elongated cathode current collector having a second connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the cathode current collector having a third length, and a cathode material bonded to the cathode current collector; and
- (2) a second layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket

around the cathode to encase the cathode therein and through which the first connector tab extends, whereby two layers of separator material separate the anode and cathode when wound into the coil of the electrode assembly.

10. (Five Times Amended) An electrode assembly for an electrochemical cell of the type comprising an elongated anode assembly and an elongated cathode assembly wound unidirectionally in side-by-side relation into a coil comprising a plurality of alternating anode and cathode assembly layers built up from an innermost layer through inner layers to an outermost layer such that outermost layer of the coil comprises an end segment of the anode assembly, wherein.

(a) the anode assembly comprises:

- (1) an anode comprising an elongated strip of alkali metal and an anode current collector having at least a first connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the elongated strip of alkali metal having a first length, the anode current collector having a second length shorter than the first length, the anode current collector being disposed against an end segment of the elongated strip of alkali metal corresponding to an end segment of the anode assembly that when wound into the coil disposes at least a portion of the anode current collector in the outermost layer of the coil; and
- (2) a first layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the anode to encase the anode therein and through which the first connector tab extends; and

(b) the cathode assembly comprises:

- (1) a cathode comprising an elongated cathode current collector having a second connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the cathode current collector having a third length, the third length shorter than the first length by an amount that enables the end segment of the anode assembly to be wound into

the outermost layer of the coil, and a cathode material bonded to the cathode current collector; and

- (2) a second layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the cathode to encase the cathode therein and through which the first connector tab extends,

whereby two layers of separator material separate the anode and cathode when wound into the coil of the electrode assembly.